

**Proclamation 6818—National POW/
MIA Recognition Day, 1995**

August 29, 1995

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Throughout our proud history, America's sons and daughters have answered the call to defend our fundamental liberties and to safeguard the freedoms of peace-seeking countries around the globe. Representing the finest this Nation has to offer, the members of our Armed Forces have given everything of themselves in defense of the independence and democracy that we hold so dear. This year we have a special opportunity to honor their service as we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, the dedication of the Korean War Veterans Memorial, and the unveiling of the POW and MIA postage stamp.

In remembering these heroic men and women, it is with profound respect and solemn appreciation that we single out those who paid the heaviest price. Among them are the Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action. Their courage and devotion to duty, honor, and country—often in the face of brutal treatment and torture by their captors—will never be forgotten by the American people.

Our Nation also recognizes that the families of these brave citizens have suffered and made great sacrifices for our country. For it is in the name of both the missing and their loved ones that we aggressively pursue the release of any United States service member held against his or her will, that we search tirelessly for information about the missing, and that we seek the repatriation of recoverable American remains.

On September 15, 1995, the flag of the National League of Families of American Prisoners of War and Missing in Southeast Asia, a black and white banner symbolizing America's missing, will be flown over the White House, the Capitol, the United States Departments of State, Defense, and Veterans Affairs, the Selective Service System Headquarters, the Vietnam Veterans and Korean War Veterans Memorials, and national

cemeteries across the country. This flag is a symbol of our Nation's covenant with those who defend us and with the loved ones they leave behind—the brave individuals who have earned our everlasting gratitude and their families who deserve our deepest sympathy and our national pledge to achieve the fullest possible accounting of American troops.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 15, 1995, as "National POW/MIA Recognition Day." I urge State and local officials, private organizations, and citizens everywhere to join in honoring all Prisoners of War and Missing in Action still unaccounted for as a result of their dedicated service to our great country. I also encourage the American people to recognize and acknowledge the steadfast vigil the families of the missing maintain in their quest for answers and a conclusion to their struggle. Finally, I call upon all Americans to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-ninth day of August, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

William J. Clinton

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NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on August 31.

**Statement on the First Anniversary
of the Cease-Fire in Northern
Ireland**

August 30, 1995

Tomorrow marks the first anniversary of the Irish Republican Army's cease-fire in Northern Ireland, joined 6 weeks later by the Combined Loyalist Military Command. These historic decisions opened a door that had been closed to the people of Northern Ireland for too long—the gateway to peace.

On this anniversary, I urge the parties to build on the important work of the past year to secure a just and lasting settlement to a conflict that has cost so many lives.

We owe much of the progress to the courage and determination of Prime Minister Major and Taoiseach Bruton and their continued willingness to take risks for peace. I also salute the people of Northern Ireland for their extraordinary perseverance and their dedication to the cause of peace. They have endured violence with so much dignity, and now the future that they have long deserved is within reach.

I am looking forward to visiting a peaceful Northern Ireland later this year and paying personal tribute to those who have worked so hard to bring about this new day. I welcome the progress made in recent months toward reducing barriers, alleviating tension, and promoting reconciliation. Much, however, remains to be done. To advance the goal of peace, I urge both republicans and loyalists to do their part and seriously address the issue of decommissioning paramilitary weapons. This is an essential step toward banishing once and for all the specter of violence that has haunted Ireland. I urge the parties to sit down together soon to discuss their aspirations for the future as well as their fears and differences. As I have said before, I would be pleased if talks were underway by the time of my visit.

As we look back on a year in which the bombs and guns have been silenced, I hope all the parties will reaffirm their commitment to build a peace in Northern Ireland for generations. The United States stands ready to support the people of Northern Ireland and the British and Irish Governments in that effort.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on the Alternative Plan for Federal Pay Adjustment

August 31, 1995

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

The law requires that the President transmit to the Congress an alternative plan for Federal pay adjustments if he views the pay adjustments that would take effect under the

law as inappropriate. Therefore, to ensure that substantially larger increases do not take effect automatically, I am transmitting an alternative plan for the 1996 pay adjustments.

Under section 5303(a) of title 5, United States Code, the rates of basic pay would rise by 2.4 percent, effective in January 1996. In addition, pursuant to section 5304 of title 5, General Schedule employees also would receive an increase in their locality-based comparability payments that would cost 2.7 percent of payroll. When combined with the 2.4 percent basic pay increase, the locality-based payments would produce a total payroll increase of about 5.1 percent that would cost \$3.9 billion in 1996—\$2 billion more than the 2.4 percent pay increase I proposed in my 1996 Budget and which is included in my Balanced Budget Plan.

Sections 5303(b) and 5304a of title 5, however, provide me the authority to implement an alternate pay adjustment plan if I view the pay adjustments that would otherwise take effect as inappropriate due to “national emergency or serious economic conditions affecting the general welfare.” As you know, Presidents have used such authority many times over the past 15 years.

In evaluating “an economic condition affecting the general welfare,” the statute directs me to consider such economic measures as the Index of Leading Economic Indicators, the Gross National Product, the unemployment rate, the budget deficit, the Consumer Price Index, the Producer Price Index, the Employment Cost Index, and the Implicit Price Deflator for Personal Consumption Expenditures. I have reviewed these and other pertinent measures of our economy.

The budget discipline that my Administration has put in place has contributed to sustained economic growth and low inflation. To continue this discipline and its favorable impact on economic conditions, I have determined that an alternative pay adjustment of 2.4 percent is appropriate for the 1996 pay raises under sections 5303 and 5304. This raise matches the 2.4 percent basic pay increase that I proposed for military members in my fiscal 1996 Budget and that the Congress likely will include in the 1996 Defense Authorization bill.